

IN THE CLAIMS

1 (currently amended). A method of facilitating trading, comprising:
automatically, via a computer, providing a price inquiry to a market process having an order file, the market process also having a crowd of trading processes registered therewith, and
automatically, via the computer, requesting that the market process notify its crowd of a price improvement opportunity.

2 (original). The method of claim 1, further comprising trading at a price provided by the crowd.

3 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically providing and requesting are performed by a trading process.

4 (currently amended). A method of providing a crowd price, comprising:
automatically, via a computer, receiving notice at a trading process registered as being the crowd of a market process of an opportunity to improve upon a book price,
automatically, via the computer or another computer, determining whether to improve upon the book price, and
automatically, via the computer or the other computer, providing [[a]] the crowd price that improves the book price when the determination is positive.

5 (original). The method of claim 4, wherein the determining is in accordance with an order processing methodology.

6 (original). The method of claim 5, wherein the order processing methodology is represented in a decision table.

7 (original). The method of claim 4, wherein the determining includes requesting an instruction from a user.

8 (original). The method of claim 4, further comprising automatically registering as part of a crowd to receive the price improvement opportunity notice.

9 (original). The method of claim 8, wherein the automatically registering occurs with a market process.

10 (original). The method of claim 4, wherein the automatically receiving notice, determining and providing a crowd price are performed by a trading process.

11 (currently amended). A method of providing a crowd price, comprising:
automatically, via a computer, receiving notice at a trading process registered as being the crowd of a market process of a proposed pairing price,
automatically, via the computer or another computer, determining whether to improve upon the proposed pairing price, and
automatically, via the computer or the other computer, providing [[a]] the crowd price that improves the proposed pairing price when the determination is positive.

12 (original). The method of claim 11, wherein the determining is in accordance with an order processing methodology.

13 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein the order processing methodology is represented in a decision table.

14 (original). The method of claim 11, wherein the determining includes requesting an instruction from a user.

15 (original). The method of claim 11, further comprising automatically registering as part of a crowd to receive the proposed pairing price notice.

16 (original). The method of claim 15, wherein the automatically registering occurs with a market process.

17 (original). The method of claim 11, wherein the automatically receiving notice, determining and providing a crowd price are performed by a trading process.

18 (currently amended). A method of providing price discovery, comprising:
automatically, via a computer, notifying a crowd of trading processes registered with a market process of an opportunity to improve upon a book price,

automatically, via the computer or another computer, receiving a crowd price from the crowd, and

automatically, via the computer or the other computer, providing the crowd price as a response when the crowd price is better than the book price.

19 (original). The method of claim 18, wherein the automatically providing occurs in response to a price inquiry according to a published delay time.

20 (original). The method of claim 18, wherein when the crowd price is provided as a response, a pairing must occur.

21 (original). The method of claim 18, further comprising receiving a price inquiry specifying that the response to the price inquiry should occur after automatically notifying the crowd of the price improvement opportunity.

22 (original). The method of claim 18, wherein the automatically notifying, receiving and providing are performed by a market process.

23 (canceled).

24 (currently amended). A method of facilitating trading, comprising:
automatically, via a computer, notifying a crowd of trading processes registered with a
market process of a proposed pairing price,
automatically, via the computer or another computer, receiving a crowd price from the
crowd, and
automatically, via the computer or the other computer, pairing with the crowd price when
the crowd price is better than the proposed pairing price.

25 (original). The method of claim 24, wherein the automatically pairing occurs
according to a published delay time.

26 (original). The method of claim 25, wherein the published delay time is less than one
second.

27 (original). The method of claim 25, wherein the published delay time is greater than
one second.

28 (original). The method of claim 24, further comprising determining that a next
pairing will be at the proposed pairing price different than a previous pairing price.

29 (original). The method of claim 24, wherein the proposed pairing price is the best
price from a file of stored orders.

30 (original). The method of claim 24, wherein the automatically notifying, receiving
and pairing are performed by a market process.

31 (canceled).